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John Brown to Susan Livingston, December 23, 1780

John Brown

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Treesbanks, near Guilmarrook 23^d Dec
No. 13th } 1700

My Dear Sisters letter dated 23^d October last, I received the
9th Instant, it is the first and the only letter that I have received
from any of the Family since the death of my dearly beloved wife, altho'
I have wrote many. Indeed I recd one from Mr Rob^t Watts dated
in July last, in answer to one covering some letters, particularly a letter
to your Papa informing him of my very great and unspeakable loss,
Oth^o Susan. She was the very best of Women, — Her memory will be
ever dear to those who truly knew her in this Country, but she is now
enjoying her reward, and it is our business to imitate the Example
she sett before us.

Bro^r William's Death was truly affecting, but have hitherto
heard no particulars concerning the nature of the Quarrel, I took
an opportunity of informing my Child Mary, that her Uncle
William was Dead, she said nothing but turned round her head
and the tears augh'd from her Eyes; it was a considerable time
before I was able to quiet her,

It is surprizing to me that the silk and lace sent you and Sister
they is not come to hand, I have long heard of Mr. Kears being at New
York, I think that it was directed to Lady Mary Wotton, her having been
last summer on Long Island may be the reason why you have not heard
of it, but I am perswaded it will still come to hand, as I look on Kears
to be a careful man, and he told me that he would put it in his trunk
with his own things, I shall write him by this opportunity —

It is about a month since I recd a l^r from Bro^r Phillips, He
wrote me that he had been at Margate for the benefit of sea bathing
that he found himself better for it, and that by order of His M^{ty}
— sicans he was to pass this winter betwixt Londⁿ and Bath, I wrote
him of my having recd a letter from you —

Last night I had a letter from an off^r of Co^l. Kears just dated
1st Nov^r, from Jersey, he says the Co^l. was well, and intended
sailing for London by the first Packet

I begin to think that the reason of many of your letters ^{for me}
miscarrying is their not being properly addressed, must therefore,
beg you will be attentive to address as follows To —

at Greensbanks near Gilmarnock N^o 13.th in which case if they
come to any Post Office they cannot miscarry —

Your request my Dear Susan concerning a little of ^{your} Dear Sisters
hair &c shall certainly be complied with, and sent you, when a
proper opportunity offers — I have the satisfaction to inform you
that your niece and nephew are truly as fine children as I ever
knew, this is really to be understood as words without the partiality
of a Parent, they both desire their best compliments to you
with the love to their Grand Papa, and Grandmama, &c. it is almost
every day I sit after dinner which of them shall have the
2 care of giving as a toast, Grand Papa, & Grandmama, and all the
Family, my M^og^r enjoys her usual health, she is now going on in
her 85th year, I have reason to be thankful that my health is likewise
good — I beg to be remembered to your Dear Papa in the most
sincere and affectionate manner, may his health be long spared for a blessing
to all concerned, with love to your Mama, Sister Eliza and all
inquiring friends I am most sincerely your affectionate Bro^r
Compliments of the Season to you all
Pray write often

John Arthur

Miss Susan Livingston

at Washinridge

Care of Peter Van Brough Livingston Esq
New York